

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said composite material comprises hydroxyapatite and/or other apatite in a concentration of 5-80 vol%, preferably 10-50 vol% and even more preferred 25-45 vol%.

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6. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said closing of the system and applying of pressure takes place at temperatures below 900°C, for ceramic based composites preferably below 800°C, even more preferred below 700°, and for more metal based composites preferably below 500°C.

7. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said densification of the material is driven to an end temperature above 900°C, preferably above 1000°C and even more preferred above 1100°C, for ceramic based composites, or 500-800°C, preferably 600-800°C for metal based composites, and an end pressure above 100 Mpa, preferably up to 200 Mpa.

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8. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said applying of pressure is performed as a partial applying of pressure, before an end temperature for the densification is reached, and before commencing decomposition of apatite phase, whereby a part of pressure of 0.2-10 Mpa is applied.

9. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said densification of the material is performed stepwise, whereby a first part pressure is applied, preferably of about 0.2-5 Mpa, and is maintained up to a first temperature, whereafter a second part pressure is applied, preferably of about 1-10 Mpa, and is maintained up to a second temperature, whereafter a possible further is applied, or an end pressure and an end temperature is applied.

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10. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that one or more helping agents are added to a barrier layer at densification by hot isostatic pressing or to a powder bed at densification by over pressure sintering, in order to further suppress unwanted reactions, like decomposition and oxidation.

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12. (Amended) Bioactive composite material, comprising apatite, for dental or orthopaedic use, which comprises groups with a tendency for decomposition (e.g. vaporization), characterized in that it has been produced by to a method according to claim 1.